

THE NAME GAME
Mike J. Burrows

One of the early customers of Joseph Sloper was Samuel Montagu (or was it Montagu Samuel?) who was the user of the perfin

492.1 SM/Co 10,15/13,8,6 4mm (I)

As you will see it could just as easily have been MS/Co.

In Liverpool on 21st December 1832, Henrietta Samuel gave birth to her second son, which she and her husband Louis, decided to name Montagu. Whilst the child was still young they changed their minds, for reasons best known to themselves, and reversed his names and began to call him by his surname.

At thirteen years of age he obtained employment with his brother-in-law, a foreign banker in Lombard Street, London. Moving about a bit he eventually opened his own bullion merchant, foreign exchange and banking business in February 1853. His eldest brother, Edwin, was taken in as a partner, the firm being known as Samuel & Montagu,

In 1862 the name of the concern was changed to Samuel Montagu Company. A year later offices were found at 60, Old Broad, Street, London, and in the same year he was created Baron Swaythling.

In 1894 he obtained a royal licence to change his name to Samuel Montagu. A further application in 1904 saw the change to Samuel-Montagu.

A very active and philanthropic member of the Jewish community he died on 12th January 1911.

The earliest dated perfin that I have seen is JY 26 69 and this of the style constructed to avoid the Queen's profile. A rather prolific perfin on the surface-printed issues it seems to have been dispensed with during the early 1880's. My latest date is MY 17 81, but a 1/- Foreign Bill fiscal of 1856, with a London scroll postmark for 28 DIE 85 is illustrated in the December 1978 issue of the Philatelist.

Other perfins in a similar style are known, Cat. Nos. 492.3 and 492.3a. Has anyone a cover to identify them?

The only other listed for Samuel Montage is,

492.4 SM/Co 10,15/14,8,4 5mm (III)

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

A couple of mistakes were made in our last issue whilst transcribing from manuscript. These were:

SUDAN OFFICIAL : In the first paragraph the final sentence is incomplete. It should read, "One held in Geneva on 28th & 29th April followed by the London sale on 10th November.

THE NAME GAME : Montagu was created Baron Swaythling in 1907 and not 1894 as stated. He was created a Baronet in 1894 and raised to the peerage as Baron Swaythling of Swaythling, co. Southampton, on 18th July 1907.

We apologise for these errors. Perhaps members would correct their copies to put the record straight.